

**We are for people.**

**The Book of Colossians — EPISODE 3 (Colossians 1:21-29)**

## Essential Truth: Jesus changes everything.

Colossians 1:21–29 (NLT) — <sup>21</sup> This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. <sup>22</sup> Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault. <sup>23</sup> But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it. <sup>24</sup> I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. <sup>25</sup> God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. <sup>26</sup> This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. <sup>27</sup> For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. <sup>28</sup> So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. <sup>29</sup> That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

## Essential Truth: Jesus changes everything because He reconciles people with their Creator.

2 Corinthians 5:16–21 (NLT) - <sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

**Faith Church Essential: We are for people.**

**We are for people, because Jesus is for people.**

We are for people; expanding our circle making room for more people to belong; loving others like Jesus.

Belonging is not about acceptance of sinful life, it's about adoption into a new family through Christ's reconciliation.

Colossians 1:23 (NLT) — But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.

We are adopted. We are apprentices to Jesus. We are ambassadors on assignment to bring reconciliation.

## **PRACTICING THE WAY**

*As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.*

**Start the Bible Recap reading plan with a friend.**

### **Recite this prayer each day:**

*Father, You are our creator. Through Jesus, you have reconciled us to yourself. We have been adopted into your family, being made righteous, holy, and redeemed. Holy Spirit, help me to be an ambassador sharing Jesus with others in my life.*

### **Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)**

- Read Colossians 1:21-29. What do you notice in this passage?
- Sunday's message was about the supremacy of Jesus. Did anything stand out to you or raise a question?
- How would you define reconciliation to someone else?
- What are some ways you could make room for others in your life? What are common reasons that keep us from making room for others in our life?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What do these verses tell us about God and our lives?
- Have you been water baptized? Why did you decide to get baptized? Tell your group about the experience.
- Pray the following prayer, slowly, as a group: *Father, You are our creator. Through Jesus, you have reconciled us to yourself. We have been adopted into your family, being made righteous, holy, and redeemed. Holy Spirit, help me to be an ambassador sharing Jesus with others in my life.*